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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,822	11/25/2003	Amit Raikar	200309668-1	9372

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,822

Applicant(s)

RAIKAR, AMIT

Examiner

Brandon S. Hoffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the claims call for a computer readable medium, but nowhere in the specification is a computer readable medium described.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sowa et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0154776).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Sowa et al. teaches a method/computer readable medium for establishing secure group-based communication comprising:

- Distributing a first set of keys to a plurality of hosts for encrypting communication and for source authentication of group-based communication between said plurality of hosts (paragraph 0044); and
- Distributing a second set of keys to said plurality of hosts for dynamically modifying said first set of keys (paragraph 0045).

Regarding claims 2 and 19, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising distributing said second set of keys wherein a unique set of keys are distributed to each of said plurality of hosts (paragraph 0038).

Regarding claims 3 and 20, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising distributing said second set of keys wherein each of said plurality of hosts receives a unique key for each of said plurality of hosts except for itself (paragraph 0034).

Regarding claims 4, 15, and 21, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising communicating between said hosts in a utility data center communications environment (fig. 7).

Regarding claims 5, 16, and 22, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising authenticating a communication source from a host level (fig. 7).

Regarding claims 6, 17, and 23, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising authenticating a communication source from an application level (fig. 6).

Regarding claims 7, 11, and 24, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising adding a new host to said plurality of hosts and dynamically modifying said first set of keys in response to adding said new host (paragraph 0114).

Regarding claims 8, 13, and 25, Sowa et al. teaches in response to removing one of said plurality of hosts, dynamically modifying said first set of keys (paragraph 0115).

Regarding claims 9 and 26, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising dynamically modifying said first set of keys at regular intervals with said second set of keys (page 4, table 2).

Regarding claim 10, Sowa et al. teaches a method for establishing a secure group-based communication environment between a plurality of hosts comprising:

- Distributing a first set of keys to each of said plurality of hosts for encrypting communication between said hosts and for authenticating a source of communication between said plurality of hosts (paragraph 0044);
- Distributing a subset of said first set of keys to each of said plurality of hosts for validating said source of communication between said plurality of hosts (fig. 4, ref. num 115 and 117); and
- Distributing a second set of keys to each of said plurality of hosts for dynamically modifying said first set of keys and said subset of said first set of keys (paragraph 0045).

Regarding claim 12, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising dynamically modifying said first set of keys and said subset of said first set of keys with a third set of keys generated in response to adding said new host (paragraph 0114).

Regarding claim 14, Sowa et al. teaches further comprising dynamically modifying said first set of keys and said subset of said first set of keys with a third set of keys generated in response to removing said host from said plurality of hosts (paragraph 0115).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon S. Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon Hoffman/

BH

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6,23,07